

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for forming a continuous sheet ~~from~~ of molten, viscous material onto a casting surface, said apparatus comprising:

a discharge manifold configured to discharge molten, viscous material having a hollow interior chamber with at least one open side;

at least one manifold inlet opening into said chamber for receiving the molten, viscous material, each at least one manifold inlet opening configured for attachment to piping;

a discharge opening on at least one side configured to ~~for~~ discharging said molten viscous material from said chamber; and,

a roller rotatably mounted adjacent to the chamber wherein a gap is ~~present~~ defined between an outer surface of the roller and ~~an internal surface of the discharge manifold~~ the casting surface.

wherein the roller is configured to discharge a continuous sheet of molten, viscous material and to cooperate with the casting surface to extrude the material received in said gap from said discharge opening.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein at least one manifold inlet is configured for attachment to an adjustable valve for regulating flow of said molten, viscous material upstream of the manifold.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein at least one manifold inlet is attached to an adjustable valve.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 19, wherein each manifold inlet is attached to an adjustable valve.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein at least one manifold inlet is attached to a pipe.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein each manifold inlet is attached to a pipe.

23. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 17, ~~further comprising~~wherein a casting belt mounted adjacent to the discharge manifold and downstream of the roller comprises the casting surface, and wherein the roller is set a fixed distance from the casting belt and ~~a space~~the gap is ~~formed~~defined between a surface of the roller and the casting surface of the casting belt.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the roller comprises a stainless steel cylinder and a plastic sleeve shrunk onto the cylinder.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 17, further comprising a drive mechanism connected to the roller to facilitate rotation of the roller.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 17, further comprising a pump to facilitate transfer of said molten, viscous material toward the casting belt.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the manifold has a plurality of manifold inlets.

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 27, wherein each of the manifold inlets is attached to an adjustable valve.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 23, wherein the roller is positioned such that a longitudinal axis of the roller is perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the casting belt.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 23, wherein a bottom face of the chamber is open to the casting belt along at least a part of the length of the bottom face.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 23, wherein the fixed distance from the roller to the casting belt can determine the final sheet thickness of the molten, viscous material.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 23, comprising a drive mechanism connected to the casting belt to cause the belt to revolve.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 23, wherein tandem movement of the roller and the casting belt draws the molten, viscous material from the manifold.

34. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 23, wherein the discharge manifold is removable so that more than one type of discharge manifold may be interchangeably mounted adjacent to the casting belt.

35-44. (Canceled)

45. (New) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the casting surface moves in the same direction as the surface of the roller.

46. (New) The apparatus of Claim 45, wherein the roller and the casting surface run at the same surface speed.

47. (New) The apparatus of Claim 45, wherein the roller and casting surface are independently driven.

48. (New) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein a fixed distance from the roller to the casting surface can determine the final sheet thickness of the molten, viscous material.